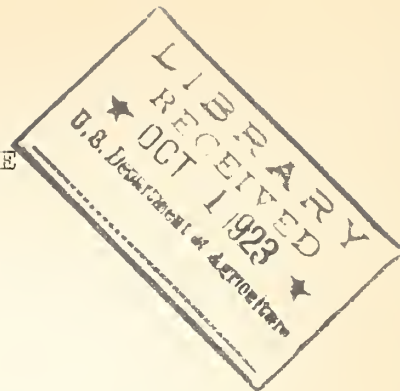


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A METHOD FOR POISONING CROWS

The western crow and its near relative the northwest, or "fish," crow have been causing losses to agriculture through raids on cornfields, poultry yards, and orchards, and in the destruction of song and game birds; yet these birds also destroy insects which are often injurious to growing crops. While a wholesale poisoning of crows is not advisable, the destruction of a few will often stop the damage done in certain sections.

Though the crow would be a most difficult bird to eradicate over any considerable area by a campaign of poisoning--a fact due largely to the bird's wariness--such a method has been found effective in protecting crops. When once a flock of these birds have learned through the loss of one or several of their number that a certain area has been baited with poisoned food they are inclined to avoid it for some time at least. Corn is the bait usually employed in poisoning crows. If prepared according to the following directions it will kill quickly and its effectiveness will last for a considerable time when exposed to weather:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Corn | 20 quarts |
| Strychnine (powdered) | 1 ounce |
| Starch | 2 tablespoonfuls |
| Water | 1½ pints |

Put the starch and strychnine in the water and heat to boiling, stirring thoroughly after the starch begins to thicken. Pour this mixture over the corn and stir till every kernel is coated. The seed may then be spread out and dried.

Find the spot in the field where crows have been feeding and pre-bait with unpoisoned corn for two or three days; then substitute the poisoned bait. The killing of a few birds will often cause other crows to shun a field so poisoned for a considerable time.

Turkeys and ducks, and young poultry of all kinds, should be kept away from baited areas.

CAUTION: Keep all poison containers PLAINLY LABELED and OUT OF REACH of irresponsible persons and livestock. Pick up or destroy uneaten baits.

Further information regarding the habits of the crow and methods of protecting crops against its depredations will be found in Farmers' Bulletin No. 1102, "The Crow in Its Relation to Agriculture," copies of which may be obtained on request addressed to representatives of the Biological Survey, or by purchase from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for five cents in coin.

